

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. IMPROVEMENTS TO AUTHORITIES FOR PROVI-**
2 **SION OF ASSISTANCE FOR ADAPTATIONS OF**
3 **RESIDENCES OF VETERANS IN REHABILITA-**
4 **TION PROGRAMS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 21 of title 38, United
6 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2102A
7 the following new section:

8 **“§ 2102B. Adaptations to residences of veterans in re-**
9 **habilitation programs**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (b) and
11 (c), the Secretary may assist a veteran who is entitled to
12 services and assistance under chapter 31 of this title and
13 is pursuing a rehabilitation program under such chapter
14 in acquiring such adaptations to such veteran’s residence
15 as are determined necessary by the Secretary to accom-
16 plish the purposes of such rehabilitation program.

17 “(b) AMOUNT.—(1) The aggregate amount of assist-
18 ance available to a veteran under subsection (a) may not
19 exceed \$77,307. The Secretary may waive this limitation
20 for a veteran if the Secretary determines a waiver is nec-
21 essary for the rehabilitation program of the veteran.

22 “(2) Effective on October 1 of each year (beginning
23 in 2017), the Secretary shall increase the amount de-
24 scribed in paragraph (1) by the percentage calculated
25 under section 2102(e)(2) of this title.

1 “(3) Beginning on October 1, 2019, the Secretary
2 shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of
3 the Senate and House of Representatives a biennial report
4 on the use of the waiver authority under paragraph (1).

5 “(c) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe
6 such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this
7 section.

8 “(d) REHABILITATION PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this
9 section, the term ‘rehabilitation program’ has the meaning
10 given such term in section 3101 of this title.”.

11 (b) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may provide as-
12 sistance under section 2102B of such title, as added by
13 subsection (a), in advance of regulations by issuing notice
14 specifying the criteria for the application, approval, and
15 oversight processes relating to the provision of assistance
16 under such section.

17 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

18 (1) SCOPE OF SERVICES AND ASSISTANCE FOR
19 TRAINING AND REHABILITATION.—Section 3104 of
20 such title is amended by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing new subsection:

22 “(d) The Secretary may not assist a veteran in ac-
23 quiring adaptations to the residence of the veteran under
24 this chapter. Any such assistance may be furnished only
25 under section 2102B of this title.”.

1 (2) MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES RESID-
2 ING OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—Section 2101A
3 of such title is amended—

4 (A) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
5 section (d); and

6 (B) by inserting after subsection (b) the
7 following new subsection (c):

8 “(c) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsections (a)
9 and (b), this section shall not apply to the provision of
10 assistance under section 2102B of this title.”.

11 (3) BENEFITS ADDITIONAL TO BENEFITS
12 UNDER OTHER LAWS.—Section 2104 of such title is
13 amended—

14 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “; how-
15 ever” and all that follows through “once”;

16 (B) in subsection (b), by striking the sec-
17 ond sentence; and

18 (C) by adding at the end the following new
19 subsection:

20 “(c) The Secretary may not provide assistance to a
21 veteran under this chapter if the Secretary determines
22 such assistance would result in a duplication of benefits
23 under this title to the veteran.”.

1 (4) EXCEPTION TO MANDATORY LIFE INSUR-
2 ANCE.—Section 2106(a) of such title is amended to
3 read as follows:

4 “(a) The Secretary shall insure any individual under
5 70 years of age who has received assistance under this
6 chapter against the death of the individual except for an
7 individual who—

8 “(1) elects in writing to not receive insurance
9 under this section;

10 “(2) fails to respond in a timely manner to a
11 request from the Secretary for information on which
12 the premium for such insurance can be based; or

13 “(3) receives such assistance under section
14 2102B of this title.”.

15 (d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
16 at the beginning of chapter 21 of such title is amended
17 by inserting after the item relating to section 2102A the
18 following new item:

“2102B. Adaptations to residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs”.